

Clean Air

INDOT works to ensure that state and local transportation plans and programs conform to the Indiana air quality plan, known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP). INDOT strives to eliminate or lessen traffic congestion by funding and implementing such techniques as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), better traffic signal timings, intersection improvements, alternative transportation modes (bus, train, bicycle, pedestrian), park & ride facilities and ridesharing programs. INDOT also cooperates with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to provide vehicle emissions testing and public awareness.

Clean Water

INDOT is experimenting with the use of constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment at rest areas. Constructed wetlands will typically last 100 years, with one-twelfth of maintenance requirements as compared to other options. Albeit constructed wetlands require more land area than some other treatment options, some of their advantages are: high quality treated water, chemical-free treatment, aesthetically pleasing, effective compliance with regulations.

Prairie Maintenance

INDOT has been cooperating with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on a highway prairie management project for several years. Natural prairie remnants occur along several stretches of highway in Indiana and are worthy of protection. As a part of the cooperative INDOT/DNR management, efforts include no mowing or use of herbicides, removal of noxious weeds/woody plants, and periodic burning of the grasses.

Resource Conservation and Recovery

INDOT continues its determination to reduce and eliminate the use of hazardous materials. Due to this effort, no INDOT facility carries a large generator status. INDOT has adopted the use of land farming for onsite remediation of petroleum impacted soil. This practice decreases landfill accumulation and remediation costs. INDOT is constantly improving its current procedures to help improve disposal methods.

Recycling

Issues dealing with the environment have come to the forefront in the U.S. and more specifically, Indiana, in the past few years. Waste diversion and recycling are terms that have become mainstream issues with many companies in relation to the bottom line and the “right thing to do”. INDOT is no exception, and for the past few years has been a leading government agency in Indiana in efforts to minimize the amount of discarded waste from our facilities. INDOT has targeted specific waste streams such as concrete/asphalt, light bulbs, oil, antifreeze, filters and tires. In addition, tons of steel and aluminum scrap, which is recovered from guardrails, sign posts and signs, from INDOT construction projects are auctioned off to metal scrap dealers each year. Furthermore, INDOT has also been researching way to use waste streams from other industries. This includes the utilization of fly ash, foundry sand and coal combustion waste as possible fill materials in construction projects as well as the use of waste tires in the construction of roads and as a component in the compound used in crack sealing of roads.